



HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAD!

**Celebrating 100 Years
of Honoring Fathers**

The Tenth Annual New England Fathering Conference

**WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY
MARCH 25-27, 2009
CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL
CROMWELL, CONNECTICUT**

Welcome!

Welcome to the tenth annual New England Fathering Conference, *Happy Birthday Dad! Celebrating 100 Years of Honoring Fathers*. We are proud to once again invite dads, family service providers, social workers, health professionals, educators, program directors, state and federal representatives, and advocates to participate in two and a half days of learning and sharing. The title of this year's conference reflects the 100th anniversary of Father's Day, and we are also proud to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the NEFC! We will reflect on how far the father involvement field has come, where we stand, and where we are headed. As in the past, the conference features a talented, diverse array of speakers and presenters who will inspire and challenge us. We look forward to seeing you!

The NEFC Planning Committee

SPECIAL CONFERENCE FEATURES

Keynote Speakers

The Conference Keynote Speakers include **Bernie Dorsey**, founder of the Conscious Fathering Foundation, **Darryl Green**, Male Services Facilitator with Casey Family Services in Baltimore, and **John Badalament**, international lecturer, author and educator. They will share their extensive knowledge and experiences in the fatherhood field, as we celebrate and reflect on the work we have done and discuss the future of the movement.

Dads' Rap Sessions

On Day One and Day Two, dads from New England will talk about their experiences, including the challenges and joys of their fathering role...it's a great opportunity to hear directly from dads!

The After-Party

We are pleased to offer the opportunity for conference attendees to relax and get to know each other in a comfortable and fun atmosphere. On Wednesday evening *Latanya Farrell & the Bookman Styles Band* will entertain with their fabulous R&B sound, while you enjoy food and beverages and get the chance to meet people from across New England and beyond.

Resources

Baystate Professional Book Service will have a diverse collection of books & resources available for purchase. Further, various agencies will offer free information and materials about their programs and services in the *NEFC Resource Hall*.

State Roundtable Discussions: Child Support, Custody & Advocacy

Based on requests from past conferences, we are excited to introduce roundtable discussions at this year's event. On Friday morning, providers and parents can get state-specific information about child support, access & custody, and other legal issues dads and their families face. Don't miss the opportunity to hear a panel of professionals from your state share relevant laws, policies, procedures and answer your questions!

SPONSORS

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, DHHS, REGION I
CATHOLIC CHARITIES ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON, MA
CT CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND
CT COMMISSION ON CHILDREN
CT DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES
CT DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
CT DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION SERVICES
CT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
CT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
MASSACHUSETTS CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
NH COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF MEN
REAL DADS FOREVER/CONNECTICUT
RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES
SOUTHERN KENNEBEC CHILD DEVELOPMENT CORP./MAINE
SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY SERVICES/NEW HAMPSHIRE
THE HUB FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER/NEW HAMPSHIRE
YORK COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION CORPORATION/MAINE

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

5:30-7:30PM Register Early!

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

- 7:30 AM Registration/Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 AM Welcome/Acknowledgments
- 9:15 AM Keynote Speech: Bernie Dorsey, *Conscious Fathering Foundation*
- 9:45 AM Questions & Discussion
- 10:00 AM Find Your Workshop!
- 10:15 AM Arena A Workshops
- 12:15 PM Lunch
- 1:30 PM Dads' Rap Session
- 2:00 PM Questions and Comments
- 2:15 PM Break & Networking
- 2:30 PM Arena B Workshops
- 4:30 PM Day One Ends

8:00-11:00 P.M.

The After-Party

featuring the sounds of Latanya Farrell & the Bookman Styles Band

Thursday, March 26, 2009

- 8:00 AM Registration/Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 AM Welcome
- 9:15 AM Keynote Speech: Darryl Green, *Casey Family Services*
- 9:45 AM Questions & Discussion
- 10:00 AM Find Your Workshop!
- 10:15 AM Arena C Workshops
- 12:15 PM Lunch
- 1:30 PM Dads' Rap Session
- 2:00 PM Questions and Discussion
- 2:15 PM Break & Networking
- 2:30 PM Arena D Workshops
- 4:30 PM Day Two Ends

Friday, March 27, 2009

- 8:00 AM Registration/Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 AM Acknowledgments
- 8:45 AM Closing Plenary Session
 - Keynote Speech: *John Badalament, international author & educator*
- 9:15 AM Questions & Discussion
- 9:30 AM State Roundtables: *Focus on Child Support, Custody & Advocacy*
- 11:00 AM Conference Ends

The Conference will take place at the **Crowne Plaza Hotel**, conveniently located at **100 Berlin Road in Cromwell, Connecticut**. A block of rooms has been reserved for **March 24, 25, 26, and 27** under the name **"New England Fathering Conference."**

Please contact the Crowne Plaza Hotel directly at 1-800-308-4589 or 1-860-635-2000 for reservations.

Group rates are \$109.00/night + 12% hotel tax for a single or double.

The deadline for room reservations at the conference rate is March 2nd, 2009.

Based on availability, the hotel provides shuttle service to area restaurants/shopping within a 5-mile radius.

DIRECTIONS

From the Southwest (New York City Area)

Take I-95 North to I-91 North

Take Exit 21, turn left off the exit

The hotel is on your left

From the Northeast (Boston Area)

Take I-90 West (Mass Pike)

Take exit 9 (I-84 West)

Take exit 59 and follow signs for I-91 South

Take Exit 21 off 91S, turn left off the exit

The hotel is on your left

From the North (Hartford Area)

Take I-91 South

Take Exit 21, turn left off exit

The hotel is on the left

From the Northwest (Albany area)

Take I-90 (Mass Pike) to I-91 South

Take Exit 21, turn left off the exit

The hotel is on the left

Dads & Family and Community • Arena A Workshops Wednesday, March 25 10:15am–12:15pm

- 1) **Using A Narrative Approach & Life Stories in Work with Fathers** • Participants will learn the potential of a narrative approach to fatherhood work and learn activities to use with fathers as they come to terms with their life story and transform into a self-aware person.
- 2) **The Father Factor in Re-entry Efforts** • Studies show that family and community connections are keys to successful reentry. Learn how robust fatherhood programming can strengthen these connections by addressing the "father wound," helping a man connect with his kids and providing him with motivation and purpose for all other educational and rehabilitative efforts.
- 3) **Dads Initiating Positive Change in Their Lives** • Participants will learn, discuss, and practice ways to support fathers as they make positive life changes. Areas of focus will include relationships, substance abuse, and empowering men as they make changes to counteract social norms.
- 4) **Fathers – Getting Involved & Staying Involved** • This workshop will examine the factors that motivate fathers to get involved and stay involved in the lives of their children, their families and communities. It will provide various strategies for recruitment and retention. This interactive workshop will allow participants to share their experiences
- 5) **Dads, Delancy Street 7 Work Crews: Peer Learning & Mentoring Support on the Job** • Participants will learn about the Delancey Street Model and how CT agencies are using work crews, peer mentors and integrated learning to link dads and youth to vocational skills, positive peers, community-based supports, jobs and their own businesses.
- 6) **Community Partnerships & Outreach: Empowering Fathers & Improving Child Outcomes** • Attendees will learn ways to open the dialogue with families in order to provide them the access to tools available to improve familial function and growth. Discussion will include how effective outreach, education, and communication supported by a community of resources will positively impact child and family outcomes.
- 7) **La Cultura Cura: Working with Latino Dads** • Attendees will learn a strength-based framework for working with Latinos that is founded on positive cultural models of Latino manhood and fatherhood. Attendees will participate in demonstrations and active discussion.
- 8) **Supporting Dads as Partners & Parents: Resources for Marriage/Relationship Education in Fathering Projects** • A hands-on review of Fatherhood and Marriage/Relationship Education resources will help practitioners with technical assistance needed to start/improve their efforts. Review activities from the *Exploring Relationships with Fragile Families* program. Shared goals between fatherhood and marriage/relationship efforts will be highlighted.
- 9) **Strategies For Success: Becoming Outcomes-Driven "When Good Stories Aren't Good Enough"** • This workshop is designed to identify practical, hands-on strategies to increase staff involvement and communication around data, so that what at first seems like "impersonal" information becomes a useful tool to better meet participants' needs.

Dads & Education • Arena B Workshops

Wednesday, March 25 • 2:30–4:30pm

- 1) *Who's Your (Media) Daddy? Raising Awareness of How Popular Culture Shapes Us as Fathers* • Through video, image analysis, and workshop brainstorming, we will model how discussion of popular culture images can help us understand and begin to change how men parent. Follow up materials will be available on the Web.
- 2) *Fathers Moving into the Future with Pride and Purpose* • This workshop will provide attendees with a successful holistic approach for noncustodial incarcerated fathers to engage pre and post release with the essential tools to engage in employment, increased self-esteem, respect and reunification with their families.
- 3) *Father Involvement & Children's Learning and Development* • This session is intended to provide research-based information on contributions fathers can make to their children's learning and development. It offers participants the opportunity to initiate an action plan to intentionally involve fathers and expose them to a range of best practices and resources in the field.
- 4) *Endicott College-Keys to Degrees: Educating Two Generations Together, A Program for Single Parents* • Explore the ways in which specially designed services, existing support structures, and the active involvement of the Endicott College community combine to make a learning environment where single parents and their children can succeed.
- 5) *Men At Play: Hands-on Activities for Fathers & Family Men* • This workshop will provide ideas, inspiration, and simple solutions to engage young children with play. Developmental and interpersonal benefits of a male approach to play will be explored through hands-on activities and a brief discussion.
- 6) *Heartstart: Strengthening the Emotional & Social Development in Young Children* • An interactive workshop for parents and group facilitators about encouraging characteristics in young children to help them reach their highest potential and be school-ready. Can be useful for school age children also.
- 7) *Family Finances – First Down or Fumble? What Are You Passing On?* In this activity-based workshop participants will identify the early financial lessons they learned and the messages they are sending their children. Participants will also confront common financial frustrations, create potential solutions, and learn the process of creating a household budget.
- 8) *Fathering CPR – A Framework for the Seasons of Fatherhood From Cradle to College* • As the work with fathers evolves, providing a framework for men to use as they develop skills is a critical component. This session will address a technique used nationwide to help men create guidelines for defining their own fatherhood.
- 9) *Daddy Starvation* • This interactive workshop will enhance the participant's knowledge regarding emerging outreach strategies for engaging young fathers, and provide information/tools to better understand the mindset of young fathers.
- 10) *Dads Are Parents Too* • This workshop is designed to assist practitioners in recognizing the important role fathers play in the upbringing of their children. Discussions will include an overview of the major issues that fathers face and will demonstrate the types of services and programs that are available to fathers.

Dads & Systems • Arena C Workshops

Thursday, March 26 • 10:15am–12:15pm

- 1) *The Art of Media Advocacy in Promoting Work With Fathers & Families* • Media Advocacy can be one of the most effective ways of getting your message in the public eye. Learn practical strategies to promote programs & policies that support fathers & families.
- 2) *Engaging Fathers Across Systems: A Cross-System Collaboration & Life Mapping Approach* • This workshop explores the benefits of cross-system training and introduces a new tool, Fathered to Fathering Maps. These innovative approaches promote empowerment of fathers and mutual engagement of fathers by child welfare and provider systems.
- 3) *Connecticut Pardon Team, Inc. – Providing Information & Tools to Help Change Lives* • The Connecticut Pardon Team provides information and education to thousands of individuals which have helped them determine their eligibility to apply for a Expungement/Provisional Pardon. By raising public awareness of the process we have helped to publicize the process and make it more visible.
- 4) *Young Fathers in Prison – Challenges & Opportunities for Family Preservation* • Incarceration separates fathers from their children. For many of these fragile families, especially younger families, separation because of imprisonment prohibits the positive development of a father/child relationship. Participants will explore the special challenges for young incarcerated fathers and examine evidence-based intervention strategies that assists young dads assume their parental roles and responsibilities.
- 5) *Texas Family Law Courts: Using Alternative Court & Sentencing Procedures with Incarcerated Dads* • This workshop will provide innovative practices used in Texas Family Law Courts. It will include alternative methods of dealing with them in the court process, outreach in the prisons and parent-child relation building programs.
- 6) *Bringing Back the Dads: a Systemic Approach to Non-Resident Father Engagement* • Learn about the work of the Children's Bureau's Quality Improvement Center on Non-Resident Fathers and the Child Welfare System. Gain practice tools to effectively engage non-resident fathers in the lives of their children and with the "systems" they encounter.
- 7) *Working with Incarcerated Fathers to Improve Community Functions* • Participants will learn the efforts the CT Department of Corrections that aim to increase positive family relations for incarcerated fathers; create partnerships with community providers; support incarcerated fathers in their commitment to be better fathers to their children; and prepare fathers for success after release to decrease recidivism.
- 8) *Making Strides: A Changing Approach to Child Protective Services* • This interactive workshop is designed to provide professionals with a working understanding of the Child Protective Services system. Participants will be able to identify critical intervention points for involving fathers in the course of a case plan. Topic areas will include: treatment planning, juvenile court involvement, visitation, and permanency planning. Professionals will also gain an understanding of DCF initiatives to enhance child and family outcomes.
- 9) *Fathers Count! A Child Welfare Initiative to Engage Fathers* The MA Department of Social Services launched a fatherhood engagement strategy in 2006, and it has moved forward with great energy. Agency and community representatives from area offices that have Fatherhood Engagement Leadership Teams will present their work and talk about their successes and challenges. **Be ready for a frank discussion!**

Dads & Health • Arena D Workshops

Thursday, March 26 • 2:30–4:30pm

Workshops

- 1) ***Moving Through the Pain of Father Absence*** • The fallout from father absence can often be measured through a sense of longing, anger and the fear that one is incomplete. This workshop will focus on the consequences of father absence from a developmental perspective; and propose strategies to help counterbalance long term residual effects.
- 2) ***Dads in the Kitchen: Making Nutrition Fun and Meaningful For Your Kids*** • Fathers can guide children in developing healthy eating habits. This hand-on workshop shares strategies used by the *Early Sprouts: Gardening & Nutrition Experiences for the Young Child*. Parents, providers, & educators can foster lifelong nutritious habits.
- 3) ***Promoting Positive Behavioral & Mental Health in Fathers*** Society wants fathers to power through pain and fear. Too often difficult feelings are kept inside and become expressed through rage, social isolation, etc., not a good recipe for parenting. This workshop helps attendees recognize and address mental health problems in fathers through clinical examples and inventive, flexible interventions.
- 4) ***Self Assessment: Identifying Bridges and Barriers to Implementing Programs for Fathers*** • Taking an honest assessment of ourselves as social service professionals requires both strength and courage, but by doing so we can gain the power to impact the health and wellbeing of our culture as a whole.
- 5) ***The Spirituality of Fatherhood*** • This session will explore the concept of “father” in the Torah, the New Testament, and the Koran and the application of meanings discovered in these writings for today. Participants will discuss spiritual health - what is it and how will it make me a better dad?
- 6) ***Getting Men to Talk (In Small Group Settings)*** • This workshop features a focus on the role of the fatherhood practitioner as group facilitator. Included will be: an overview of group dynamics/group process; a discussion about fathers'/ men's group facilitation issues; and a simulated group activity.
- 7) ***Dads and Babies*** • Learn how to help prevent shaken baby syndrome (SBS) by preparing fathers and other male caregivers to understand and respond safely and effectively to infant crying. Participants will be provided with an overview of two new SBS group modules. We will also screen a new video, “He Treasures Being A Dad” (directed by John Badalament) that is incorporated into these modules.
- 8) ***Parenting with a Partner: Challenges and Opportunities*** • This workshop explores how to resolve conflicts that arise when parents divide responsibilities for a child. Strategies to motivate both parents to be involved will be shared. Participants will learn when preliminary work needs to be done before parenting as partners can be successful, and discover specific tools to help parents maintain harmony in their homes.
- 9) ***Exploring A Prenatal, Early Attachment Fatherhood Program*** How early do we engage dads about attachment to, and support of mom and baby? The workshop will explore early results of a pilot program based on a curriculum developed by CT Department of Public Health and Real Dads Forever.
- 10) ***Modern Dads Making Changes: Fathering With Vision, Balance, & Rituals*** • Sharing three diverse stories from the forthcoming book *The Modern Dads Handbook: Four Practices To Raise Healthy Kids In An Uncertain World*, participants will see video clips from dads' interviews, hear excerpts from the book and be given practical dad-centered activities to utilize personally/professionally. Each of these powerful, real-life stories captures the inspiration, struggle, and payoff involved in making positive, lasting change as a dad.

WORKSHOPS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Deadline for registration and payment is March 13, 2009.

**Registration fee is \$200 whether you attend one, two or three days.
This fee is nonrefundable.**

- If registering by mail, please complete a separate registration form for each conference attendee. If you did not receive a conference brochure and would like one mailed to you, please email your name and mailing address to diana.mason@ct.gov
- If registering on-line, multiple attendees from one agency can be registered at one time using the on-line registration form.
- There is a \$25 fee, toward the cost of meals, for dads who are participants in a fatherhood program.
- Application for CEUs has been submitted to NASW, please include the \$20 fee with your registration.
- An agency may write one check for all staff who register (including payment for CEUs) and/or for all dads participating in their program who register, but you must submit a completed registration form (on-line or via US mail) for each attendee.
- If you require a W-9, enclose it with your registration.

Accommodations:

Please note individual needs (accessibility requirements, etc.).

If you require an interpreter for the hearing impaired,

call (860)424-5997 by February 20, 2009

All checks should be made payable to
CT Department of Social Services

and include the following reference code on the check
NEFC: Project 21203

Mail a copy of your on-line registration form and check to:
Diana Mason

**CT Department of Social Services, OSD 12th Floor
25 Sigourney Street, Hartford, CT 06106**